

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 IO-10 FDRE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 OMB-01 EURE-00 EB-07 IGA-01 /087 W

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O R 301645Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4224

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

JCS

SECDEF WASHDC

CASF

MAC SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF AO

SUBJECT: AIRLIFT EFFORT TO CONCENTRATE IN LUANDA; REQUEST FOR  
USG ASSISTANCE

1. SUMMARY: THE PORTUGESE GOVERNMENT HAS INSTITUTED  
A MINI-AIRLIFT FROM NOVA LISBOA TO LUANDA. GOP AUTHORITIES  
IN ANGOLA HAVE ASKED THAT U.S. END ITS EVACUATION EFFORTS IN  
NOVA LISBOA ON OCTOBER 6 AND REITERATED THEIR REQUEST THAT WE  
OPERATE TWO 747 FLIGHTS A DAY FROM LUANDA TO LISBON BEGINNING  
OCTOBER 7. I RECOMMEND THAT WE RESPOND TO THE REQUEST AND THAT WE  
STAFF UP LUANDA WITH AN AID DISASTER RELEIF OFFICER AND MOVE FSO  
LOWELL KILDAY HERE FROM NOVA LISBOA. ON SEPTEMBER 29, ACCOMPANIED  
BY AID DISASTER RELIEF OFFICER FROM NOVA LISBOA GEORGE  
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BEAUCHAMP, I TALKED WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE

HIGH COMMISSION, LT. COL CONCALVES RIBEIRO AND AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF, COLONEL FREITAS ABOUT GOP EFFORTS TO MOVE REFUGEES OUT OF NOVA LISBOA AND SOUTHERN ANGOLA. END SUMMARY.

2. COLONEL FREITAS SAID THAT THE PORTUGESE AIR FORCE (FAP) BEGAN A MIN AIRLIFT FROM NOVA LISBOA TO LUANDA ON SEPTEMBER 27. ONE 707 FLEW FOUR LOADS OUT OF NOVA LISBOA ON THE 27TH AND FOUR ON THE 28TH. AN ADDITIONAL TAP 707 BEGAN FLYING SEPTEMBER 29 AND THE PLANES ARE NOW FLYING A TOTAL OF EIGHT FLIGHTS A DAY. THE TAP PLANES HOLD ABOUT 180 PASSANGERS, NOT COUNTING YOUNG CHILDREN WITHOUT SEATS, SO THAT ABOUT 1,500 REFUGEES ARE BEING AIRLIFTED OUT OF NOVA LISBOA EACH DAY. THE PORTUGESE AUTHORITIES STILL

PLAN TO SHUT DOWN NOVA LISBOA OPERATIONS ON OCTOBER 6 AND BY THAT TIME EXPECT THAT FAP WILL HAVE TAKEN AT LEAST 10,500 REFUGEES TO LUANDA. BEFORE FAP WOULD AGREE TO TAKE ON THE MIN AIRLIFT, IT OBLIGED TAP TO TAKE OVER THE FAP EVACUATION FLIGHTS FROM LUANDA TO LISBON. MEANWHILE, FOR THE WEEK REMAINING TO OCTOBER 6, THE PORTUGESE HAVE PROGRAMMED FIVE TAP FLIGHTS A DAY FROM NOVA LISBOA, ONE PERFECT TOURS, ANE SATA AND ONE EAST GERMAN IL-62, IN ADDITION TO THE TWO U.S. FLIGHTS DAILY. TAP HAS NEVER MANAGED TO MEET ITS DAILY PROGRAM TARGETS AND I DOUBT IT CAN DO SO DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

3. NO ONE IS HAPPY WITH THE MINI AIRLIFT CONCEPT, BUT THE PORTUGESE ARE ANXIOUS TO CLOSE OUT OPERATIONS IN NOVA LISBOA AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE FOR REASONS SET FORTH IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES. AS THERE IS NOT ENOUGH LIFT CAPACITY TO GET EVERYONE OUT TO LISBON BY THE TARGET DATE, THEY BELIEVE THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS THE MIN AIRLIFT. ALTHOUGH IT IS INEFFICIENT AND PLACES A HEAVY STRAIN ON LUANDA'S RESOURCES, IT DOES MAKE POSSIBLE THE GOAL OF EMPTYING THE INTERIOR AND SOUTHERN REGIONS OF PORTUGESE AT AN EARLY DATE TO A CENTRAL POINT, LUANDA, WHERE FUEL IS AVAILABLE, LARGE PLANES CAN BE USED AND FOOD AND LODGING ARRANGEMENTS, WHILE NOT OPTIMAL, ARE SATISFACTORY. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE STRATEGY WILL ALLOW THE PORTUGESE MILITARY TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THEIR PLAN TO PULL ALMOST COMPLETELY OUT OF ANGOLA BEFORE NOVEMBER 11, THE DATE SCHEDULED FOR INDEPENDENCE. I DOUBT THEY FEEL A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THE PORTUGESE IN ANGOLA, BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY ARE QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT THE CRITICISM THAT WOULD BE DIRECTED AT THEM SHOULD THEY LEAVE LARGE NUMBERS OF WHITES BEHIND.

4. REFUGEES ON THE MINI AIRLIFT FROM NOVA LISBOA, AS WELL AS THOSE FROM MOCAMEDES AND LOBITO SEA LIFT ARE BEING QUARTERED AT THE PARATROOP BASE SEVERAL MILES SOUTH OF LUANDA. THE PARATROOPERS ARE NOW HOUSED AT THE AIR FORCE BASE. LT. COL RIBEIRO

SAID THAT SOME 6,000 REFUGEES ARE AT THE PARATROOP BASE AND THAT THE NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO CLIMB MUCH HIGHER. HE SAID THE BASE CAN HOLD 10,000 BUT THAT SOME 15,000 REFUGEES FROM THE CENTER AND SOUTH ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN LUANDA WITHIN ANOTHER WEEK. RIBEIRO REQUESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES TERMINATE IN NOVA LISBOA ON OCTOBER 6 AND TRANSFER ITS EVACUATION EFFORT TO LUANDA BEGINNING OCTOBER 7. HE REITERATED A PREVIOUS REQUEST THAT WE PROVIDE TWO 747'S IN ORDER TO INCREASE OUR LIFT CAPABILITY. AFTER THE FORMAL TERMINATION OF THE AIRLIFT AT NOVA LISBOA, TAP WILL CONTINUE TO FLY PEOPLE OUT IN A DC-6 THAT WILL BE MADE FOR THAT PURPOSE.

5. I REPEAT MY EARLIER RECOMMENDATION THAT WE PROVIDE TWO 747'S FOR A LUANDA TO LISBON AIRLIFT. IN ORDER TO ENSURE SMOOTH OPERATIONS WE SHOULD ASSIGN AND AID DISASTER RELIEF OFFICIAL TO LUANDA AND MOVE LOWELL KITDAY FROM NOVA LISBOA TO LUANDA. THE LARGE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS WHAT WILL BE LEAVING HERE AFTER OCTOBER 6 AND THE RESULTING DEMANDS MADE UPON AVAILABLE SERVICES MAKE IT NECESSARY TO HAVE QUALIFIED PEOPLE ON HAND; TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY RESULT IN A SLIPSHOD OPERATION THAT WOULD ENGENDER BAD FEELINGS. THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE TO BE MOVED OUT OF HERE, SUCH GREAT DEMANDS UPON SERVICES AND SO FEW ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS THAT WE MUST KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON ALL ASPECTS OF OUR EVACUATION EFFORT.

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